

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 028457
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON:ACH
APPROVED BY C:PHABIB
EA - MR. R. HOLBROOKE
S/S - MR. BRIDGES

-----082259Z 101960 /70

O 082229Z FEB 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028457

NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR THE AMBASSADOR ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS:PFOR, UR, US,

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH SOVIETS ABOUT LETTER TO TRINH

1. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB CALLED IN SOVIET DCM VORONTSOV FEBRUARY 8 AND INFORMED HIM THAT THE SECRETARY THE SAME DAY IS SENDING VIA PARIS A LETTER TO VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER TRINH PROPOSING A SPECIAL MISSION TO HANOI. THE MISSION, WHICH WOULD BE A PRESTIGIOUS ONE, WOULD DISCUSS MIA'S AND THE RETURN OF REMAINS, AS WELL AS OTHER QUESTIONS BETWEEN US INCLUDING HOW TO MOVE TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

2. HABIB ADDED THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO GET THE MISSION UNDERWAY AS SOON AS MUTUALLY CONVENIENT. MEANWHILE WE WOULD HOPE THE VIETNAMESE WOULD BE PATIENT ON OTHER MATTERS SUCH AS UN MEMBERSHIP. MOVEMENT ON THE MIA'S WOULD OF
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COURSE BE HELPFUL ON THE UN MATTER, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT INTEND THIS AS A PRECONDITION. AS REGARDS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UNDP AND IAEA, WE ARE PREPARED TO HAVE MATTERS TAKE THEIR COURSE; IF THE VIETNAMESE WISH TO ACCEDE, WE WILL GO ALONG WITH IT. WE WILL ALSO HAVE IN MIND SUCH THINGS AS LIFTING RESTRICTIONS ON BUNKERING.

WE WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE SPELLING ALL THIS OUT IN THE LETTER, AND THEREFORE WOULD LIKE THE SOVIETS TO EXPLAIN TO THE VIETNAMESE OUR APPROACH.

3. VORONTSOV SAID THE VIETNAMESE WOULD BE INFORMED OF THIS, AS THEY HAVE ABOUT ALL THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. HABIB SAID WE HOPE TO KEEP THIS APPROACH QUIET, BUT WE WILL HAVE TO TELL SOME KEY PEOPLE IN CONGRESS TODAY AND SOME OF OUR FRIENDS TOMORROW; THIS IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL. IF THERE IS A LEAK, WE HOPE THE VIETNAMESE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NOT INTENTIONAL AND THAT WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO INFORM CONGRESS. WE HOPE THAT THE SOVIETS WILL HELP THE VIETNAMESE UNDERSTAND THIS PROBLEM.

5. VORONTSOV SAID THEY WOULD TRY BUT THOUGHT THE VIETNAMESE WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND, JUST AS SOMETIMES MOSCOW DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHEN THERE ARE LEAKS IN WASHINGTON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, MIA, KIA, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 02/08/77
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE028457
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MGARRISON:ACH
Enclosure: FOR THE AMBASSADOR ONLY
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840076-1023
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770261/aaaaccad.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 04aeacc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3376235
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION WIT SOVIETS ABOUT LETTER TO TRINH
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, UR, US, VN, (HABIB, PHILIP C), (NGUYEN DUY TRINH), (VORONTSOV, YULY M)
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/04aeacc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009